

Woodstock Weekly



The weekly newsletter from Woodstock CE Primary School

22 January 2024

Edition: 15

LETTER FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this week's newsletter finds you well and you had an enjoyable weekend, despite the stormy weather.

Expansion update:



The builders have made good progress over the last few months. Please see below from the project manager:

So, what has been happening over the past 2 months? The building works have progressed well within the school grounds, with the block and brickwork façade being constructed up to the roof level and the internal walls for the classrooms also being constructed up to the final height. We have progressed well with the roof now being installed. If you were eagle eyed enough, you may have spotted our crane just before Christmas which helped us to lift the roof truss into position.

What have we got coming up over the next month? The roof works will continue to progress with the insulation and topcoat of waterproofing being installed. Final steps of the watertightness will take place with the window system being installed. This will be followed by the underfloor heating. The main internal change will start at the end of Jan, where you will see an increased number of personnel on site.

How are we going to keep the disruption to a minimum? We will be extending the carpark which we currently have to ensure that there is enough carparking space for everyone. Recreation Road as always will be a no parking zone for our contractors or delivery vehicles, which is relayed to them during our appointment process.

I have included a few photos above of what is going on behind the fences. We are very much looking forward to being able to move into the new classrooms later in the spring. See below! Thank you for your ongoing patience and cooperation as we move through the project.

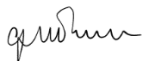


Class Curriculum Celebration Assemblies:

Please see a reminder of the upcoming celebration assemblies

Date @ 2.20pm	Class
Wednesday 24 th January	Red Kites Years 5&6
Wednesday 31 st January	Falcons Years 5&6
Wednesday 28 th February	Kingfishers Years 3&4
Wednesday 6 th March	Kestrels Years 5&6
Wednesday 13 th March	Woodpeckers Years 5&6
Wednesday 20 th March	Cygnets Years 1&2
Wednesday 27 th March	Goslings Years 1&2
Wednesday 1 st May	Nightingales Years 3&4
Wednesday 12 th June	Ducklings Years 1&2
Wednesday 26 th June	EYFS: Reception
Wednesday 3 rd July	EYFS: Nursery

Yours sincerely,



Christian McGuinness,
Headteacher

Safeguarding Children Updates

What to do if you have concerns about a child

If you have any concerns about a child relating to Safeguarding, please get in touch with one of our Safeguarding Leads immediately by contacting the school directly on 01993 812209 or by email safeguarding@woodstock.oxon.sch.uk

If you are unable to speak to a member of our Designated Safeguarding Team at school and have a safeguarding concern, please contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) directly who will be able to advise you.

If you have a concern about a child, please call MASH on 0345 050 7666.

NSPCC Updates for Parents and Families



The NSPCC have updated some of their guidance on supporting children with mental health issues. Please follow the links to some very useful pages on their website.

Child Mental Health: click [here](#)

The Safeguarding Network: click [here](#)



Collective Worship Weekly Theme

Week Beginning: 22 /1/24		Collective Worship	
Key Idea: To drive or be driverless?			
Biblical Link:	Acts 17:24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands." (NIV)		
Christian Value:	Service		
Understanding Christianity Theme:			
Worship Song:	Somebody Greater		

Invitation prayer

Dear God,
Thank you for the wonderful world and everything in it,
Thank you for the people who make new discoveries
that aim to make our lives better,
Help us to look after all Creation,
Amen

Our World



Will self-driving vehicles change our lives?



Let's look at this week's story

Motorists in Britain could be completing journeys using driverless cars by 2026 the transport secretary, Mark Harper, has predicted. He believes that fully autonomous vehicles, in which people become passengers in their own cars, will arrive in the UK that year and follow a gradual rollout. The government introduced a bill in a speech by King Charles III that paved the way for autonomous cars, without a safety driver, after pressure from industry, MPs, and Sir Patrick Vallance in his recent review of technology regulation.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
 Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
 This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).






UN Rights of a Child

When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. All adults should do what is best for children, which may affect how and when we use driverless vehicles in the future.




BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD



British Values



Rule of Law

There are rules and laws that people must follow when driving vehicles. These help keep everyone safe. As we move into the future, the rules and laws will change. Who is responsible for vehicles in the future may change too!

HAVE A SORT OUT & SUPPORT THE PTA TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL



DECLUTTER & DONATE:



January is a great time to have a bit of a sort out at home & get rid of anything no longer wanted.

It's also a great rainy day activity to get kids involved with!

Why not ask them to have a sort through their own clothes & toys using these simple steps...

ASK 3 QUESTIONS:

①

Do you USE it?

(does it still fit / do you still play with it)

②

Do you NEED it?

(have you got several others / similar items)

③

Do you LOVE it?

(if it makes you happy then keep it)

If the answer is "NO" - then it's probably time to pass it on...

CREATE 3 PILES:



RECYCLE / RUBBISH

Recycle whatever you can,
then please throw the rest
away responsibly.



DONATE

Bag 2 School accept most
household textiles. Other items can
then be donated to a local charity shop.



SELL

You may want to sell some things
yourselves via platforms like
Vinted, Marketplace or eBay.

rebecca's  home sort

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HAVE A SORT OUT & SUPPORT THE PTA TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL



DECLUTTER & DONATE:

Bag2School - A fun, free and easy way to raise funds .

Bag2School is a **free eco-friendly fundraising scheme** that helps schools, businesses, community groups, local councils, and charities **raise funds through textile recycling** as well as spreading textile recycling awareness.

Have fun & please give generously...

The PTA receives 50p/kg
of donated items!

Bring your donation bags
to school on:

Tuesday 23rd January

ACCEPTED ITEMS:



Socks



Belts



Soft toys



Household
linen



Household
curtains



Household
towels



Clothes



Paired
shoes



Handbags



Hats



Bags



Scarves
and ties

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Hedgehog Club

Half Term Activity Days at Hailey Community Wood from 9.30am -3.30pm. (early drop off/late pick up available)

14th, 15th and 16th February

Come and enjoy a day of outdoor challenges and games including den building, fire lighting, cooking and much, much more.

We will be cooking snacks on the fire. Hot drinks, squash, homemade biscuits will be available all day.

It costs £38 per child or £48 for early drop off option..

Booking is through the website www.thehedgehogclub.co.uk



Family Fun Morning.

When: Sunday 4th February 10am until 1pm.

Where: Hailey Community Wood, near Witney

What:

A morning of fun all about birds. You can make a bird hide, go exploring to see what birds you can find, make a bird feeder to take home and much, much more.

Homemade biscuits hot drinks and snacks cooked on the fire will be available

Costs: £15 per child, adults are free.

Booking is through the website www.thehedgehogclub.co.uk



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
3

AGE RATING
PEGI
12

First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or "toxic" behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision however, this can be a great lesson in money management for children.

TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours, of course, isn't healthy but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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HOW TO RESPOND WHEN A COLLEAGUE TALKS TO YOU ABOUT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH



@BELIEVEPHQ

- ☐ Is there anything I can do to help with your workload?
- ☐ How can I help you to move forward?
- ☐ Is there anything I can to support or help you?
- ☐ What can I do to help you if you are struggling?
- ☐ I am sorry to hear that, that must be really difficult for you
- ☐ Shall we work together to find you some extra support?
- ☐ How would you like me to stay in contact with you?
- ☐ Thank you for opening up and talking to me
- ☐ I am really proud of you for opening up and sharing
- ☐ Take as long as you need
- ☐ I am here for you
- ☐ How can we support you as a team?
- ☐ Things will get better
- ☐ Thank you for sharing that with me
- ☐ I will help you get through this
- ☐ Would you like me to come with you to find some extra help?
- ☐ I am here to listen to you
- ☐ Would you like me to check in with you regularly?
- ☐ This feeling won't always last forever
- ☐ I am here when you need me
- ☐ We can overcome this together

